

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 and 16 are amended. No new matter is presented in any of the foregoing and, accordingly, approval and entry of the amended claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 10-15 were withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Claims 1-9 and 16-19 are pending and under consideration.

ITEM 3: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-9 AND 16-19 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

In item 3, the Examiner rejects claims 1-9 and 16-19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite.

The Examiner contends "how the sensing actuator unit performs the recited function as the structure and/or structural relationship with the various other elements to permit this function has not been clearly defined" in lines 6-8 of claim 1, and "it is not clearly understood what the control unit is controlling in order to accomplish the stated functions" in lines 9-12 of claim 1. (Action at page 2).

The Examiner also contends "it is not clearly understood what the control unit is controlling in order to accomplish the stated functions" in claim 16 lines 6-8. (Action at page 2).

Independent claim 1 is amended herein to define a structure and connection relationship of a sensing actuator-operating unit "moving the sensing actuator to a first position where the paper sensor outputs the paper unloading signal when a pickup unit carries out a pickup movement, and moving the sensing actuator to a second position where the paper sensor unit outputs the paper loading signal after and before the pickup movement of the pickup unit."

Independent claims 1 and 16 are amended herein to recite, using claim 1 as an example, a control unit "determining an occurrence of a pickup error when the paper loading signal is not output, and interrupting the operation of the image forming apparatus when the occurrence of the pickup error is determined."

Applicants submit that claims 1 and 16 (both as amended) and respective dependent claims comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and request the rejection be withdrawn.

ITEM 4: ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner indicates that claims 1-9 and 16-19 would be allowable if rewritten or amend to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection. Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject and independent claims 1 and 16 are amended herein.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date:

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